SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*(cont.)*

Mr. President : The House will now resume discussion on Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan's cut motion on supplementary grant—the demand of Rs. 13,371 under 39 Miscellaneous—Excise.

6. Rs. 13,371—under 39—Miscellaneous—Excise—Price Control Measures—*(cont.)*

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Mr. President, Sir, the motion before the House is a token cut; its object being to raise a discussion as to how to make more effective the measures that are now taken with regard to the price control and the control of food-grains in general. Surely, it is a very important topic, a subject which might justify even *an exclusive full dress debate of this House.* Also, it is a subject which is highly complex and even complicated to a degree. Naturally, the discussion on the motion yesterday had to wade through tortuous sideways and by-paths, and there was very great difficulty in fixing definite issues. Nevertheless, some clarification is possible. The general object of the motion is to urge upon the Government the necessity of making the control measures more effective. One method of doing so would be to prevent, in a more effective way, the smuggling of paddy and other food materials out of the State, and for that more men will be required, an addition to the preventive staff of the Excise Department. Arrangements are being made accordingly and a demand for the additional funds required for that purpose, has come up before this House. Well and good; and the House can have no quarrel with the demand. Another equally important step would be to make more effective the measures that are now taken to commandeer the surplus paddy and the surplus food grains from the cultivators. Now with regard to these two kinds of measures, there is a general fear, if I may be allowed to state it here, there is a general impression in the country that the arm of the law, the arm of the Government, is not long enough, or strong enough to touch the persons in big places, so that there has not been much of effectiveness in the measures so far taken. During the Budget Session a cut motion was introduced here to urge the necessity for making the control measures more *rigorous* and more *equitable.* Paradoxical as it may seem, there was perfect reconciliation between the two words. The idea was to make the control more rigorous with regard to people in high places and where large quantities are involved, and to make it more equitable as far as the poor man is concerned. Now, that is the very same thing that we want to urge upon the attention of the Government today, too. As far as the commandeering of the food-grains is concerned, it is the respectful submission of the Members here, and it is the general demand in the country, too, that the Government have to make their measures more rigorous and more effective. In what way such measures could be made more effective is a more practical question. Now it may not be possible for us to device all the practical measures that may be taken in this behalf. It is left to the discretion and the good sense of the Government to device ways and means in that respect. But still, we may suggest a few steps.

Yesterday, the Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies, I mean the Director of Food Supplies, pointed out one difficulty that it was not possible to commandeer the surplus supplies throughout the State all simultaneously and that while the officers were busy with one big man, the other big people would get time to smuggle out their surplus paddy from the State. That certainly is a difficulty, and one which seriously affects the food position in the State. But, I would think there is a very obvious remedy. There are the Tahsildars who are concerned with this work of commandeering of paddy. They can very well issue notices to the big cultivators of the State to submit statemants and also to execute kychits or bonds, showing the surpluses they expect after defraying all cost of cultivation and providing for their own household needs; and undertaking to deliver over to the State such surpluses. And if these estimates are found to be incorrect, the Tahsildars can get them scrutinised and corrected and the true surpluses ascertained; and then timely orders may be sent to the cultivators, *even before the harvest begins,* to deliver such surpluses over to the Government. And, of course, prompt and proper action should be taken without fear or favour if the orders are not complied with.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I may submit that these statements are being called for now. What I meant yesterday was that even when the statements are given before the harvest, they will say that those were only approximate statements and then there will be attempt on the part of some cultivators to remove a portion and subsequently put forward the excuse that the yield was comparatively lower than what was expected, many such excuses will be put forth

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are not harvest statements being filed?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes, both before and after the harvest.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I had made a request to the Government for the supply of some information of a very important nature connected with this cut. May I know whether the Government is ready with that information?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I shall be able to give you some information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):)* May I know whether the Government have got all the information sought for?

Mr. President: Order, order. The information that has been collected will be given to you.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I want to make a suggestion that if because of short notice, it has not been possible to collect all the information fully, I would make the request to you, Sir, and through you to the Government, that the discussion of this cut motion be taken up tomorrow morning after the whole of the information is supplied to us, so that the discussion may be effective and serve a purpose. If the Government will be able to give the information in the course of the day, or before 11 a.m. to-morrow, the discussion could be had very effectively and with a purpose, a laudable purpose, of controlling food-stuffs, to-morrow morning.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Part of the information is not available.

Mr. President: Will it be available?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, we have phoned for the information. It has not reached us. It relates to the number of prosecutions, withdrawals, convictions, etc., and we are not sure whether we will get it even by to-morrow. It is being gathered in the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Trichur.

Mr. President: The Government are not certain whether they would be having the information by to-morrow.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, it need not be to-morrow; any other day. The only thing we want is that we may have an effective discussion on any morning during this sitting, so that things may be placed before you in the proper perspective, so that you can take action.

Mr. President: If I am to answer your suggestion, I would suggest, that the House might pass this supplementary grant now and arrange for the discussion of the general question later. I have found that it has been ruled in this House that on a cut motion relating to a demand for supplementary grant, general questions of policy are not in order. I would suggest that we must put ourselves right from all points of view. If the House would pass this supplementary grant now, this question can be discussed as a short notice resolution if the House so desires it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In the light of the very helpful suggestion thrown out from the Chair may I suggest that this question may be allowed to be discusseed in this Session as a resolution.

Mr. President: I should prefer to dislink the discussion from the supplementary grant.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* There is no need to fear that this grant is going to be reduced; it will certainly be granted, only after making the Government understand the clear position as we want to place it before the Government. That is the object. It is not obstructive tactics or anything which may go to prejudice the action of the Government; it is not in that spirit. We want the control to be made more effective.

Mr. President: We are simply now on the question of procedure.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* It may be discussed as a full dress discussion on a resolution; the only request is that the discussion may come up during this sitting.

Mr. President: That we can do certainly. I would suggest Friday or Saturday so that the Government may get time for collecting the information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I may bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Chair that this laudable thing can get precedence by the consent of the Members who have gained their places under the caprices of the ballot box. If they agree to give room for this question, it may be taken up.

Mr. President: I was not suggesting that anything should be done without the consent of all sections of the House. A full discussion on this subject can be had when the Government are in possession of all the information which is being asked for. If that is the general wish, I shall be glad to arrange for that.

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Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: If this quettion is to be taken up for general discussion, the supplementary grant may be passed now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Mr. K. Narayana Menon, in whose name the first resolution stands, has agreed to give room for me.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I have no objection.

Mr. President: I suggest that on that understanding the Hon'ble Member might withdraw his cut motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I withdraw it on the understanding that this will be resolution No. 1.

Mr. President: It is not possible to put it as the first resolution; it is not possible to discuss it before the Government come in possession of the facts.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: A day may be fixed.

Mr. President: We shall arrange to have the discussion on Saturday morning after the question hour. That is agreed. Has the House given permission to withdraw the cut.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Sir, Friday would be more convenient.

Mr. President: As Saturday may not be convenient for certain Members, we will make it Friday.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn

Demand put and carried

7. Rs. 100 under 31—2—Archaeological works

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 100 under "31—2—Archaeological Works". The amount is required for certain urgent repairs that have to be done to the old Kollannur Temple. The temple is one of the protected monuments. The budget provision for the same is insufficient to meet the demand due to the high tender rate. Hence an additional allotment of Rs. 100 is required. I request the House to kindly pass this allotment.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I second it.

Motion put and carried

8. Rs 2,500 under 39 (c)—Grain purchase—T. A.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Sir, I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 2,500 under "39 (c) Grain purchase—Travelling allowance". This is necessary for the payment of the travelling allowance of those who are engaged in the work of grain purchase. What was allotted was found to be insufficient for the purpose. Hence this additional allotment.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I second it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, I have a cut motion.

Mr. President: I received notice of this cut motion only this morning. Under the rules, it requires five days notice. I disallow it.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: Sir, I beg leave to make a suggestion that this may be noted for the general debate which is proposed to be had on Friday. This may also be included in the scope of the general debate.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The demand may be sanctioned now and the matter discussed in the general debate.

Mr. President: I think this would certainly be convenient and come within the scope of the general discussion coming on Friday.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: On a point of information Sir, I would like to know whether this T. A. includes the special inspection staff appointed under the Food Control Scheme.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The inspection staff is not under the Revenue Department.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know Sir, whether we have many more grain purchase officers now than we had at the time of the Budget.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk we have got one Tahsildar and the term of the Chittur Tahsildar has been extended.

Demand put and carried

9. Rs. 900 under 39—4 (a) Food Production Measures

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 900 under 39—4 (*a*)—Food Production Measures. The food production staff was disbanded at the end of last year, but when disbanding, one clerk and a peon were found to be necessary

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